Subject No. 339.

Extermination of Prickly-Pear.

Summary of discussion.—The practice of growing Prickly-Pear as hedges of fields should be forbidden. The raiyats may be induced to remove the same where it now exists as its thorns are poisonous. The nuisance is rapidly increasing.

Dewan's reply.—(After consulting Mr. Ricketts who remarked that the scrub exterminator which he got down from Australia and tried proved a failure). We have to take some action in regard to Prickly-Pear as with Lantana. (See Subject No. 79 *supra*).

Subject No. 340.

Taluk Mestris should help Amildars in preparing estimates for Municipal and Civil Department works.

Summary of discussion.—Taluk Mestris who according to the existing arrangement are performing duties connected with the Public Works Department, should also be required to assist the Amildars and Municipal Vice-Presidents in preparing plans and estimates for Municipal and Civil Department works.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

Subject No. 341.

Minor repairs of certain minor channels in Chamrajnagar Taluk.

Summary of discussion.—Some small channels, such as those from Honnahole, are not repaired by the Public Works Department though the raiyats holding lands irrigated by them are paying Irrigation Cess. The raiyats are required to do the needful work themselves. The work such as clearing silt and weeds is ill done, particularly where it is difficult. The work is often divided between several villages and the raiyats of those villages respectively. But if one man neglects his part, or one village neglects its part, there is obstruction to the flow of water and the inhabitants of villages lower down suffer. Again in the division of work between village and village and raiyats and raiyats, it is to the poorer and the less influential that the larger share often falls. It is therefore requested that Government may do the needful itself at its own cost, or cause estimates to be prepared and recover the amount with something extra for supervising establishment from those raiyats and carry out the work by its own agency. The advantage of this would be that there will be but one agency by which the work is carried out and this would be satisfactory.

Dewan's reply.—This will be hard on the raiyats themselves. The Government repairs the main channels, and leaves the raiyats to do the little that is necessary to keep in order the minor distribution channels.

Representative Member.—The channels to which we allude are main channels. They are thrown on the hands of the raiyats because they are comparatively small ones, 5 miles or thereabouts in length each. The Sargur, Kudlur, Honganur channels are examples.

Dewan's reply.—The subject will be inquired into.